

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

3 -----x
4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Case No. 16-cr-832

5 -vs-

STATUS CONFERENCE

6 NICHOLAS TARTAGLIONE,

7 Defendant.

8 -----x
9 United States Courthouse
10 White Plains, New York
January 11, 2022

11 ** VIA TELECONFERENCE **

12 B e f o r e: HONORABLE KENNETH M. KARAS
United States District Judge

13 A P P E A R A N C E S:

14 DAMIAN WILLIAMS
15 United States Attorney for the
Southern District of New York
16 JASON SWERGOLD
JACOB FIDDELMAN
17 Assistant United States Attorneys

18 BRUCE BARKET
AIDA LEISENRING
19 Attorneys for Defendant

20 EDWARD RYMSZA
ARIELLE EGAN
21 Attorneys for Defendant

22 CARL SCHWARTZ
ARIELLE EGAN
23 Attorneys for Defendant

24 ALSO PRESENT:

25 FBI Special Agent Jessica Miller

1 THE COURT: Good morning.

2 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Good morning, Judge. United States
3 of America versus Nicholas Tartaglione, 16-cr-832.

4 Mr. Tartaglione, please state your full name.

5 THE DEFENDANT: Nicholas Tartaglione.

6 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Thank you.

7 Counsel for the government?

8 MR. SWERGOLD: Good morning, Your Honor. Jason
9 Swergold and Jacob Fiddelman for the government.

10 THE DEPUTY CLERK: We also have FBI Agent Jessica
11 Miller for the government.

12 And counsel for defendant?

13 MR. BARKET: For Nicholas Tartaglione, it's Bruce
14 Barket and Aida Leisenring.

15 MR. RYMSZA: And this is Edward Rymsza on behalf of
16 Mr. Tartaglione.

17 MR. SCHWARTZ: Good morning, Your Honor. This is Carl
18 Schwartz, along with Arielle Egan, on behalf of Mr. Tartaglione.

19 THE COURT: All right. Anybody else? All right.

20 Good morning again, everybody.

21 Mr. Barket, in light of the spike in COVID cases, I
22 thought it made sense to at least explore the possibility of
23 doing this conference telephonically. Does your client
24 understand his right to have this conference done in person, and
25 is he willing to waive that right and proceed telephonically?

1 MR. BARKET: Yeah. Yes, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Government, let's start with any
3 updates from you.

4 MR. SWERGOLD: Thank you, Your Honor.

5 From the government's perspective, there is only one
6 item for us on the agenda, which is, following the last
7 conference, we -- the parties met and conferred regarding the
8 intermediate deadlines that would take us up to a March 2023
9 trial date. Last week we submitted a proposed schedule to Your
10 Honor with all agreed-upon dates except for the length of time
11 between the guilt phase and any penalty phase. And so from our
12 perspective, I think the only thing we are asking for the Court
13 today is to order that schedule.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 All right. Mr. Barket?

16 MR. BARKET: Your Honor, we are, I think, in agreement
17 on everything except that which we haven't staked out a position
18 on yet, which is the length of time between the liability, and
19 if there is going to be a penalty phase, that phase.

20 Our -- as I am sure you recall when we were last in
21 court, I noted that we were seeking four weeks, but that was
22 really kind of a prophylactic request if you will. There are
23 some considerations that might lead us to request that, but we
24 are not sure at this point that we will need to. So we are just
25 going to ask that Your Honor put an asterisk on that part of it,

1 and we will revisit it in the months to come, I am sure well in
2 advance of when we need to notify the jurors.

3 THE COURT: Okay. And when we were last -- at our
4 last conference, Mr. Barket, you had also indicated that there
5 was going to be some activity from you and your team with regard
6 to applications towards the Justice Department, and is that
7 still the case?

8 MR. BARKET: Absolutely, Your Honor. We've taken some
9 steps internally, and we expect to move forward on that front
10 relatively quickly. We've consulted with resource counsel and
11 some other sources to best position ourselves to have that be
12 successful, and obviously, we hope it will be, but we will wait
13 and see.

14 THE COURT: But it's clear that this is going to be a
15 two-track approach. So whatever you are going to be doing on
16 that front is not affecting the schedule that you and the
17 government have agreed to with the one asterisk related to the
18 time between the guilt phase and if there is to be a penalty
19 phase?

20 MR. BARKET: Correct. Correct, Your Honor. There is
21 no -- we -- I don't want to say when we will submit the
22 application, but I expect it will be, relatively speaking, soon.

23 THE COURT: Yes.

24 MR. BARKET: And the proposed schedule, as you can
25 see, is more active from the Court's perspective later; and from

1 | our perspective, this time period between now and, say, the
2 | spring is going to give our learned counsel an opportunity to
3 | become thoroughly familiar with the file, and we will move
4 | forward; but the application to the Justice Department to de-
5 | authorization will be made well in advance of any activity in
6 | court. When the Justice Department will respond to that, of
7 | course, we can't -- we can't know.

8 | THE COURT: Yeah, I'm not -- the only reason I am
9 | asking is I just want to make sure we are all clear that the
10 | schedule that has been proposed is going to be the schedule that
11 | is going to govern this case, and that whatever you are going to
12 | do with respect to the Justice Department, whenever the Justice
13 | Department responds, is a separate thing that will be pursued.
14 | I just want to make sure we are all committed to this schedule.

15 | MR. BARKET: We are, assuming it's a capital case, in
16 | other words, if it's a death penalty case. If the case is de-
17 | authorized --

18 | THE COURT: Obviously.

19 | MR. BARKET: -- that eliminates large segments of this
20 | litigation, and we would undoubtedly look to try the case much
21 | sooner.

22 | THE COURT: Right. I mean, right now it is a capital
23 | case, and that's what this schedule assumes, and that's what I
24 | just want to make sure, that everybody is committed to this
25 | schedule. Obviously, if there is a change, then we can revisit

1 it; but for now, this is the schedule --

2 MR. BARKET: Yes, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: -- that we are going to have. Okay. All
4 right.

5 Any other issues, Mr. Barket, that you want to raise
6 from your client's perspective?

7 MR. BARKET: Well, there's a couple of issues, Judge,
8 that I think our learned counsel is going to address with
9 respect to our client's ability to access the discovery, and
10 I -- on that front, I will note for Your Honor, just to refresh
11 everybody's memory, this has been an ongoing kind of problem
12 because of the restrictions in the facility and
13 Mr. Tartaglione's access to a computer. He doesn't have a paper
14 file. He has some papers, but the file is largely contained on
15 a hard drive that he needs a computer to view, and the access to
16 that over the last really two years has been extremely limited,
17 and learned counsel is going to address an application we have.

18 And I just note one other thing that the -- when we
19 were last in court, we were hopeful that he would be able to see
20 his mother, who he hasn't seen since I want to say mid November,
21 just a few days after his father's death, and at that point,
22 that was an abbreviated visit. The jail has not seen fit to
23 permit a visit since then, although his mother's made a couple
24 of trips down there, and now of course the facility is closed to
25 all visiting, including social and legal visits.

1 THE COURT: Because of the pandemic, because of the
2 spike in the cases.

3 MR. BARKET: Because of the pandemic.

4 THE COURT: Yes.

5 MR. BARKET: But that was -- I think that began in
6 December 23rd. So there was a good month that went by when his
7 mother, for reasons that -- you know, unrelated -- I don't know,
8 unrelated to pandemic, was not allowed to see her son, and it is
9 what it is. We -- the day after or day or two after our court
10 appearance, I wrote to the jail and asked for a visit to be
11 arranged. The email was -- as they typically are from this
12 particular counsel -- ignored entirely, and the visit never took
13 place. I'm not talking about the government. I'm talking about
14 counsel for the jail.

15 THE COURT: No, I understand. But I think in terms of
16 going forward, I mean, I don't know, is there an application to
17 be made in light of the pandemic? I don't know.

18 MR. BARKET: The pandemic kind of, you know, puts a
19 pause on things, right? I don't -- you know, he needs to see
20 his family as part of our mitigation. It's part of the defense
21 of the capital case. That's been --

22 THE COURT: Yes.

23 MR. BARKET: That's been a position we have taken
24 since back in the spring of 2019 when he -- visiting was
25 prohibited because of a -- the cellphone violation, and we

1 worked out a protocol then that he would be able to see them on
2 our application, I think it was about once a month, with Adam
3 Johnson, who was very -- I don't want to say cooperative -- but
4 very responsive.

5 THE COURT: Yes.

6 MR. BARKET: Since then, the visits have dwindled to,
7 you know, a few times a year; some due to the pandemic and some
8 due to just the nature of the facility. You'll recall MCC had
9 the problem with security and the gun. Then the pandemic. So
10 it's been, you know, an ongoing problem and issue. Now we are,
11 you know, 14 months away from the start of the trial with no
12 visitation in sight. If this is going to be an indefinite
13 position of the jail, that they are just going to close all
14 visiting regardless of vaccine status, testing or anything else,
15 we might make an application, but not at this time. I just
16 wanted to make a note on the record that we are continuing to
17 try to get him to see his family, and that it continues to be a
18 problem.

19 THE COURT: Okay. All right.

20 All right. And then again, you said there is going to
21 be an application with respect to discovery access?

22 MR. BARKET: Yes.

23 MR. RYMSZA: Bruce, I can address that.

24 Judge, this is E.J. Rymsza. Good morning, and happy
25 new year to you.

1 THE COURT: Happy new year.

2 MR. RYMSZA: Thank you. Judge, so as Mr. Barket
3 stated, I mean, there is obviously a very long history with this
4 in terms of Mr. Tartaglione's access to discovery. He was
5 furnished with an external hard drive that I believe was
6 provided by the government, but because of a whole host of
7 factors, and some of these factors were certainly pre-pandemic,
8 you know, that the computers and access to a computer at MCC was
9 not always available. Obviously, there were things beyond his
10 control, which included, you know, the number of inmates that
11 also would be trying to access their discovery. There was very
12 limited time in which he could use that -- use the computer to
13 access the discovery. I know at least of one instance when I
14 was with him the computer was not even operable. There's
15 lockdowns. There's all other kinds of issues that have
16 occurred, and now with the pandemic in full force yet again,
17 there's, you know, pandemic-related lockdowns and lack of
18 movement within the institution and so on and so forth.

19 I think what makes this challenging, too, is now the
20 clock is really running for all of us, particularly learned
21 counsel who is new in the case, and, you know, I think now is
22 really -- time is of the essence. So what we would be asking
23 for, Judge, is an order authorizing CJA funds to purchase a
24 laptop, and then order MDC to permit Mr. Tartaglione maximum
25 possible use to use that laptop to be able to access his

1 discovery.

2 I don't think the request, Judge, is out of sorts.
3 Certainly, you may be aware that some of your colleagues in the
4 Southern District have permitted this: Judge Halpern, Judge
5 Román, and in the Eastern District, Judge Komitee, particularly
6 in -- a defendant who is at MDC. So it's clear that MDC can
7 accommodate this request. They have done it. Certainly, there
8 are protocols that would need to be put in place. You know,
9 this -- and when I say a laptop, Judge, I certainly mean an
10 internet-disabled laptop; and certainly there would be, you
11 know, security measures in place in terms of storing the laptop,
12 where it's getting charged, and other restrictions that wouldn't
13 pose any type of security concerns for the institution.

14 So we think -- we think that's a reasonable request.
15 I think it will be extremely helpful and needed for
16 Mr. Tartaglione to prepare and assist all of us in his defense.

17 So I would propose, Judge, submitting to you a
18 proposed order authorizing both the authorization to procure CJA
19 funds and also to order MDC to permit Mr. Tartaglione maximum
20 access and use of the laptop.

21 THE COURT: Have you bounced this off the U.S.
22 Attorney's Office to see if they have been in touch with MDC
23 counsel to just try to grease the skids on this?

24 MR. RYMSZA: So, Judge, I guess with the first
25 request, obviously, they don't have any dog in the fight for

1 funding. But in terms of giving the access to MDC, I -- it was
2 mentioned in passing in our last conversation with the
3 government, but the -- just my feeling was there was going to be
4 some resistance on that part. I have not reached out any
5 further to government counsel or to counsel at MDC.

6 THE COURT: Well, I agree with you on the sort of
7 standing to object to the purchase of a laptop and just funding
8 for Mr. Tartaglione's defense. I am just trying to make sure
9 that the laptop gets used, and so that was the only reason.

10 So, Mr. Swergold, do you have a reaction, not to the
11 funding piece of it, but to getting it to Mr. Tartaglione in the
12 MDC?

13 MR. SWERGOLD: Your Honor, I think Mr. Fiddelman is
14 going to address discovery issues if that's okay with the Court.

15 THE COURT: Sure. That's fine. Go ahead, Mr.
16 Fiddelman.

17 MR. FIDDELMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

18 So first, as a general matter, we agree that
19 Mr. Tartaglione needs to be able to access and review discovery,
20 as does every inmate in the MDC, and obviously, there are
21 limitations in order to ensure sort of equal distribution of
22 time on computers and things like that.

23 Our understanding of the other circumstances in which
24 laptops have been brought into the jail are that those laptops
25 are prepared, you know, by the government in consultation with

1 the defense first with safety protocols and internet-disabling
2 software, et cetera, and loaded with the discovery, but they are
3 not kept in the defendants' cells; and that's because the Bureau
4 of Prisons -- rightfully, I think -- views it as an unacceptable
5 safety risk for a laptop to remain in an inmate's cell. And
6 those laptops instead are kept either in the unit or in the law
7 library, and so their function is to essentially increase the
8 number of available computers with a dedicated computer for that
9 inmate when that inmate is permitted to engage in discovery
10 review.

11 As a general matter, with respect to that type of an
12 arrangement, I think we don't have any objection to exploring
13 whether we can make that happen with the Bureau of Prisons. The
14 sort of brief mention that defense counsel referenced in our
15 prior conversations related to a request for Mr. Tartaglione to
16 have a laptop in his cell, which we responded we knew the BOP
17 does not allow for safety reasons.

18 So we'd be happy to facilitate correspondence between
19 the Bureau of Prisons and the parties to ensure that everyone
20 understands the boundaries of what's permissible and what's not
21 and what can be accomplished and what can't, and we can perhaps
22 either jointly confer on a proposed order or perhaps an order
23 from the Court won't even be necessary.

24 MR. RYMSZA: Judge, can I address -- can I respond to
25 that?

1 THE COURT: Yeah, sure.

2 MR. RYMSZA: And again, this is E.J. Rymza.

3 Judge, first of all, I think to make some sort of
4 comparison to this case with just really run-of-the-mill other
5 cases would be inappropriate. I mean, obviously, this is a
6 capital case. The stakes couldn't be any higher. I am
7 certainly not suggesting that, you know, while I would like
8 unfettered access for Mr. Tartaglione, I understand the
9 institution policies may preclude it. I get that. I mean,
10 obviously, there's things like they are not going to want to
11 have a cord accessible -- that's the first thing that comes to
12 mind -- to charge the laptop sitting around in Mr. Tartaglione's
13 cell. And unlike some other cases, I realize the first stop for
14 any laptop would have to go to the U.S. Attorney's Office to,
15 you know, not only -- not only to make sure that the internet is
16 disabled, but make sure that the proper software to access all
17 of the discovery is downloaded on the device and, in fact, to
18 confirm that the discovery is clearly reviewable and accessible
19 prior to sending it to MDC.

20 The -- in some of these other cases what they have
21 done is that there is a specific time that the government would
22 send the laptop to the MDC officials, and they've kept the
23 laptop in -- and the charging wire -- in the office of that
24 designated individual, but -- but the goal here is that the
25 inmate would have really a maximum amount of access to be able

1 to use this laptop. I'm not suggesting that the laptop has to
2 be with Mr. Tartaglione 24/7, but what we don't want also is,
3 you know, there is no point in having the laptop if you are
4 going to be denied access to it, and you are only going to be
5 given, you know, minimal amounts of time, and certainly, the --
6 you know, the prison may be able to control when and where that
7 is. I get it. But again, the whole point of him having it is
8 to be able to utilize it in an effective way and to, you know,
9 have the ability to review it, review the discovery, you know,
10 for multiple hours a day; and that may be at this point
11 inconsistent with MDC's requirements, but again, I think it
12 would sort of defeat of purpose of him having it if he was just
13 being given limited access to it.

14 So again, maybe I'm hopeful that we can reach an
15 agreement on this. I think it's extremely important for
16 Mr. Tartaglione and really important for those of us on this
17 side. So --

18 THE COURT: All right. So I think what makes sense is
19 before you submit your order, why don't you try to work
20 something out with the U.S. Attorney's Office and MDC, and the
21 order can reflect whatever it is that gets worked out. If you
22 can't work it out, then you will submit a proposed order, and if
23 the government wants to submit its own order or a proposed
24 order, we can work out a schedule on that; but it seems to me in
25 the first instance, it would be better from your perspective if

1 it can all just be clarified and if there can be an agreement.
2 If not, then I am happy to referee the issue and see how we can
3 work something out. Does that make sense?

4 MR. RYMSZA: It does. It does, Judge. I mean, again,
5 the -- yes. That's fine.

6 THE COURT: Look, I certainly understand all of your
7 points, and you know, I will say to the government that it's
8 absolutely the case this is not a run-of-the-mill situation as
9 long as this remains a capital case, and that distinguishes it
10 from the vast majority of cases where people are being held at
11 the MDC.

12 And so I strongly encourage the government to work
13 with MDC and see if something can be resolved that gives
14 Mr. Tartaglione the access he needs and that also satisfies
15 MDC's security concerns. All right?

16 MR. SWERGOLD: Yes, Your Honor. Certainly.

17 THE COURT: Okay.

18 MR. RYMSZA: Thanks, Judge.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Any other issues from the defense
20 perspective?

21 MR. BARKET: I don't believe so, Your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Okay. And then in terms of scheduling our
23 next conference, Mr. Barket, what do you want to do in terms of
24 how far out we get together again?

25 MR. BARKET: Any sense, Your Honor, as to when we can

1 all see each other again, either with or without masks?

2 THE COURT: You mean in terms of it being in the
3 court?

4 MR. BARKET: Yes.

5 THE COURT: You know, if I had an answer to that, I
6 would be a gazillionaire. Any one of us would be.

7 MR. BARKET: I never thought I would miss the days of
8 having to put a tie on in the morning, but --

9 THE COURT: Yeah, no. I hear you. Look, from what we
10 all read, you know, at least the early data from some of the
11 countries that were first hit with Omicron, it's been a steep
12 climb up and a steep climb down. And from the articles I have
13 read, and if you all read different ones, then speak up, but it
14 suggests that the peak of this is going to happen sometime in
15 the next month, and that people hope to see the numbers come way
16 down.

17 I can't speak to, you know, what protocols the
18 marshals or the Bureau of Prisons or the court will adopt, but
19 it does seem as though there is reason to believe that we should
20 be able to get past the worst of this in the next, you know,
21 four to eight weeks.

22 MR. BARKET: So I guess mid to late February then
23 makes sense.

24 THE COURT: Okay. So why don't we shoot -- yeah. So
25 why don't we shoot for the last week of February, Dawn, if there

1 is a date that we can propose to everybody?

2 MR. BARKET: Not the week of the 21st, please. I
3 think that's President's week, and if COVID permits, I'm
4 supposed to take my children someplace that week.

5 THE COURT: Okay. So then the week of the 28th, which
6 should be into the first week in March, and we are scheduled to
7 be on trial that week is the only issue, but who knows.

8 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Judge, do you want to schedule that
9 week?

10 THE COURT: I mean, right now we are on trial, so we
11 can't do anything, it seems to me. We can try something
12 tentative, and then we may have to move it back, Mr. Barket,
13 okay, if the trial is going to go forward.

14 MR. BARKET: Okay.

15 THE DEPUTY CLERK: We can do March 3rd at 10:00. Oh,
16 I am sorry. That's --

17 MR. BARKET: Oh, I have a sentencing in the Northern
18 District that day that's going to require a personal appearance,
19 and that's going to be up in Binghamton, I think. So --

20 THE COURT: Okay.

21 MR. BARKET: I can do the week before the 21st if
22 that's helpful, the week of the 5th, somewhere in there or --

23 THE COURT: We could do that. I just don't know what
24 the numbers are going to be like. I mean, we can tentatively
25 schedule that and see where we are at.

1 MR. BARKET: Actually, I mean, March 1st is our -- is
2 the first deadline for motions, if any, so it might be
3 interesting to see where we are in terms of that. So maybe
4 after March 1st makes sense, even if it's the following week. I
5 don't know how long the trial is going to go.

6 THE COURT: Yeah, I can't do the following week, so it
7 might have to be the week after that.

8 MR. BARKET: Okay. That's okay with us.

9 THE COURT: The week of the March 14th.

10 Dawn, maybe the middle of that week?

11 THE DEPUTY CLERK: We are actually full in the
12 mornings. I don't know if they would do afternoon from the
13 facility yet. The only day that we are open is the 4th.

14 THE COURT: Okay. We can try -- can somebody please
15 mute? Somebody is not muted, and we are getting background
16 noise.

17 All right. So why don't we say then tentatively we
18 will say March 14th at 10:00. Does that not work for anybody?

19 MR. RYMSZA: Judge, this is E.J. Rymsza. I'm sorry.
20 I do have something here at 9:00, a pretrial hearing that will
21 last a few hours. And by the way, are we talking about this is
22 telephonic or this is in person?

23 THE COURT: No. I think the hope is that we will be
24 in person.

25 MR. RYMSZA: Okay.

1 THE COURT: You know, we can't say for sure, but
2 that's the hope.

3 MR. RYMSZA: Definitely cannot do the 14th.

4 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Dawn, we are booked in
5 the mornings you say in the rest of that week?

6 THE DEPUTY CLERK: We are booked Tuesday, Wednesday,
7 all day. Thursday the 17th, we have two sentences in the
8 morning.

9 THE COURT: Will somebody please mute in the
10 background? Mr. Barket?

11 MR. BARKET: Yes. Looking at the schedule again, if
12 there is going to be a motion concerning the discovery, it will
13 be fully briefed by March 22nd. So maybe it makes some sense to
14 have it just after that, and if necessary, there can be some
15 discussion concerning it.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Yeah, you've got to give me some
17 time to read the reply brief and then --

18 MR. BARKET: Right, right, right.

19 THE COURT: -- get my thoughts together. So then --

20 MR. BARKET: Even the following week, the week of the
21 28th is okay, and the only thing that will come up between now
22 and then will be the issue concerning the laptop and potentially
23 social visits, but we can address that --

24 THE COURT: We can handle those.

25 MR. BARKET: -- by phone or by paper.

1 THE COURT: Okay. So, Dawn, maybe that last week in
2 March.

3 THE DEPUTY CLERK: Is Tuesday good for you or is that
4 too late? I can do Monday or Tuesday.

5 THE COURT: Let's do Tuesday. Tuesday, what date is
6 that, then?

7 THE DEPUTY CLERK: The 29th.

8 THE COURT: Does March 29th not work for anybody?

9 All right. Sounds like that works. So let's say
10 March 29th at 10:00. We will assume it's in person, and we may
11 be taking up the discovery motion and any other issues. Of
12 course, in addition, if nothing else, we will use it as a status
13 conference.

14 Any objection to excluding time until then? Again --

15 MR. BARKET: No.

16 THE COURT: -- I made a finding that the case is
17 complex, and there are pending motions, but -- all right. I
18 will prospectively exclude time from now until March 29th of
19 2022 finding it's in the interests of justice to do so. That
20 finding is based on the fact that this is a complex case; there
21 is a lot of pretrial work to be done ranging from motions to
22 trial prep to applications being made to the Justice Department.
23 I find that the interests of justice in this exclusion outweigh
24 the public's and Mr. Tartaglione's interest in a Speedy Trial.
25 The finding is made pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 3161(h) (7) (A).

1 With respect to the schedule, obviously, I defer to
2 you all on all the pretrial stuff, so we will adopt the
3 schedule. What I am here to tell you is I am disinclined to
4 allow anything more than a day or two between guilt and penalty
5 phase, and I am giving that you heads up now so that you are not
6 surprised to hear that later on in the year. And I say that out
7 of respect for the jury's time. So you can yell at me later,
8 and I am not making a final ruling, but that's where I am at
9 right now.

10 Anything else, government?

11 MR. SWERGOLD: No. Thank you, Your Honor.

12 THE COURT: Anything else from the defense side?

13 MR. BARKET: No. And I want to promise never to yell
14 at you, Judge.

15 MR. SCHWARTZ: Your Honor --

16 THE COURT: Yes?

17 MR. SCHWARTZ: If I may? Good morning. I have yet to
18 address the Court. This is Carl Schwartz on behalf of
19 Mr. Tartaglione.

20 THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Schwartz.

21 MR. SCHWARTZ: And first let me extend my apologies
22 for not being able to make this. I haven't been in New York,
23 and I'm glad that we are able to do it on the telephone. I can
24 assure the Court that if that is the Court's position in regard
25 to the penalty phase, that the Court will receive a submission

1 in that regard. I think at the very least in a case like this,
2 based on factors that I would be happy to lay out at the
3 appropriate time, I think at the very least the week that the
4 government suggests is appropriate and reasonable. I just
5 wanted to give the Court a heads up as to that just to let the
6 Court know that's our position.

7 THE COURT: Sure. Yeah, that's fine. And just when
8 you write your submission, please incorporate my position, which
9 is that this case has been pending for a long, long time, and
10 there is a lot of prep time between now and then that people are
11 going to have. So it's not unheard of to have the penalty phase
12 start the day after the verdict and a guilt phase, and I can say
13 that from personal experience. So if you want to factor that
14 into whatever it is you submit, that would be very helpful.

15 MR. SCHWARTZ: Yes, sir.

16 THE COURT: All right. Anything else? All right.
17 Then we are adjourned, and please enjoy the rest of the day.
18 Please stay warm, everybody, and please stay healthy.

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21 I, Darby Ginsberg, certify that the foregoing is a
22 correct transcript from the record of proceedings in the
23 above-entitled matter.

24 /s/ Darby Ginsberg

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